

H. H. MARSH  
SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR

1959



Medical Officer of Health -

NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector -

J.E. FANNON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.



Council Offices,  
STURMINSTER NEWTON,  
Dorset.

1st July, 1960.

To The Chairman and Members,  
Sherborne Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1959.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935 and 1951.

The report shows that the health of the District has remained satisfactory during the year and that there has been no undue incidence of infectious disease.

I am indebted to Mr. J. Fannon, your Public Health Inspector, for his co-operation and assistance in preparing this report, and to my clerk, Mrs. J. Sammons, for her efficient services.

I would also like to acknowledge the happy co-operation and assistance I always obtain from your Clerk, Mr. I. Sartin, and the other members of your staff.

Finally, may I thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

*John B. Fannon*

Medical Officer of Health.



SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR

1959

A. Area - 41,481 acres.

Rateable value: 1st April 1960 - £40,053

Production of a penny rate: 1959/60 - £161 (estimate)  
1960/61 - £165 (estimate)

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 5,760.

LIVE BIRTHS.

|              | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |                | <u>Comparative Rates</u>            |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
|              |             |               | (a)            | Sherborne R.D. (b) England & Wales. |
| Total        | 61          | 46            | Rate per 1,000 |                                     |
| Legitimate   | 58          | 45            | resident pop:  |                                     |
| Illegitimate | 3           | 1             | = 18.6         | 19.3 16.5                           |

STILLBIRTHS.

|       |     |   |   |     |      |
|-------|-----|---|---|-----|------|
| Total | Nil | 1 | Rate per 1,000<br>live & stillbirths<br>= Nil | 9.3 | 20.7 |
|-------|-----|---|---|-----|------|

DEATHS.

|       |    |    |  |     |      |
|-------|----|----|--|-----|------|
| Total | 25 | 28 | Rate per 1,000<br>resident pop:<br>= 9.2 | 9.2 | 11.6 |
|-------|----|----|--|-----|------|

|  |     |     |   |     |      |
|--|-----|-----|---|-----|------|
| Deaths in<br>infants under<br>one year | Nil | Nil | Infantile death<br>rate per 1,000<br>live births<br>= Nil | Nil | 22.0 |
|--|-----|-----|---|-----|------|

|   |  | <u>1959.</u> | <u>1958.</u> | <u>1957.</u> | <u>1956.</u> |
|---|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Deaths from Maternal Causes             |  | Nil          | Nil          | Nil          | Nil          |
| " " Tuberculosis                        |  | Nil          | Nil          | Nil          | Nil          |
| " " Cancer of the Lungs                 |  | Nil          | 1            | 2            | 2            |
| " " Other Cancer                        |  | 19           | 13           | 9            | -            |
| " " Coronary Disease (Angina)           |  | 9            | 6            | 2            | 12           |
| " " Other heart or vascular<br>diseases |  | 13           | 25           | 18           | -            |
| " " Influenza                           |  | Nil          | Nil          | Nil          | Nil          |
| " " Pneumonia                           |  | Nil          | 3            | 4            | 3            |
| " " Motor vehicle accidents             |  | Nil          | Nil          | Nil          | 2            |
| " " All other accidents                 |  | 1            | Nil          | 2            | 2            |
| " " Suicide                             |  | Nil          | Nil          | 1            | 2            |
| " " Leukaemia & Aleukemia               |  | Nil          | Nil          | Nil          | Nil          |

B. Nature of the District.

The district is rural in character, its main industry being agriculture. A large number of outworkers carry on glove making in their homes for factories situated outside the district. A large dairy, with a wide supply area, is situated within the district.

C. Personal Health Services in the District.

The personal health services (including the ambulance service) are provided by the Dorset County Council. These have proved satisfactory during the year.

The Public Health Laboratory Services have proved in all respects most helpful and satisfactory.

Prophylactic Inoculations.

Preventive inoculation against infectious disease is the responsibility of the County Council, through its school medical and child welfare services and the private medical practitioner service.

During the year the following treatments were carried out. The figures in parenthesis are those for the preceding year.

Poliomyelitis (Six months to twenty five years)

A poliomyelitis vaccination treatment session was held regularly in Sherborne from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the third Friday in the month.

|                            |     |       |
|----------------------------|-----|-------|
| Two treatments completed   | 609 | (615) |
| Three treatments completed | 876 | -     |

Diphtheria

|                    |     |      |
|--------------------|-----|------|
| Primary treatments | 115 | (75) |
| Booster treatments | 70  | (39) |

Whooping Cough

|                    |    |      |
|--------------------|----|------|
| Primary treatments | 96 | (98) |
| Booster treatments | 15 | (10) |

Tetanus

|                    |    |      |
|--------------------|----|------|
| Primary treatments | 99 | (37) |
| Booster treatments | 11 | (3)  |

Smallpox

|                      |    |      |
|----------------------|----|------|
| Primary vaccinations | 73 | (75) |
| Re-Vaccination       | 5  | (9)  |

B.C.G. Vaccination against tuberculosis.

|  |    |   |
|--|----|---|
|  | 19 | - |
|--|----|---|

D. Environmental Health Services.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health (Part time) - Noel F. Pearson,  
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset Area and as Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council.

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is rather less than one half day per week.

Public Health Inspector (Part time) - J.E. Fannon,  
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

The Public Health Inspector also carries out the duties of Meat Inspector.

The position is unchanged in so far as, a large proportion of the Public Health Inspector's time has been taken up with sewerage and sewage disposal and in the refuse disposal service. It is not suggested that this proportion is unduly high bearing in mind the importance of these services and the scattered nature of the district. But with, however, the existing establishment of one officer in what is virtually a dual appointment, every detail, however routine, has to be dealt with by him.

WATER SUPPLY.

New Works.

A length of 920 yards of main was laid from Lake Farm, Thornford to Pitmans Leaze, as a part of the Comprehensive Scheme. Two short extensions, totalling 60 yards of 2" main were laid to meet building development at Nether Compton and Bradford Abbas.

The 2" cast iron main at Peaceful Lane, Holwell was badly affected by the action of clay soil and it was replaced by a new length of 3" asbestos cement main for 936 yards.

Quantity.

The dry summer of this year tested the Thornford borehole supply and a total of roughly 154,000,000 gallons was distributed from this supply. The borehole levels dropped during the summer but at no time did they fail to recover the artesian head.

Wincanton Rural District Council took approximately 69,000,000 gallons of water this year. At no time during the year were any restrictions imposed on consumers.

Quality.

Chlorination of all the Council's supplies is carried out and regular samples submitted for bacteriological examination and for free chlorine estimation. The details are given over -

Council Supplies (Public)Bacteriological Chemical

|                    |           |          |
|--------------------|-----------|----------|
| Northern Parishes  | 40        | 2        |
| Batcombe           | 3         | 1        |
| Yeovil Corporation | 1         | -        |
| Hillfield          | 1         | 1        |
| <b>Total -</b>     | <b>45</b> | <b>4</b> |

Private Supplies

|                      |           |          |
|----------------------|-----------|----------|
| Nether Compton       | 2         | -        |
| North Wootton        | 1         | -        |
| Castleton            | 8         | -        |
| Stockwood            | 9         | -        |
| Bradford Abbas       | 9         | -        |
| Sandford Orcas       | 1         | -        |
| <b>Total -</b>       | <b>30</b> | <b>-</b> |
| <b>Grand Total -</b> | <b>75</b> | <b>4</b> |

The potentially unsafe Hillfield supply was still in use at the end of the year. It is hoped and anticipated that this supply will be abandoned during 1960.

Dwellings and Population supplied from Public Mains.

| Parish          | Houses with Public Supply | Houses with stand-pipes. | Houses with supply direct to house. | Population supplied (estimated). |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Batcombe        | 6                         | -                        | 6                                   | 21                               |
| Beerhacket      | 18                        | -                        | 18                                  | 63                               |
| Bradford Abbas  | 139                       | 5                        | 134                                 | 486                              |
| Castleton       | 29                        | 4                        | 25                                  | 101                              |
| Caundle Bishop  | 107                       | 1                        | 106                                 | 374                              |
| Caundle Marsh   | 22                        | 1                        | 21                                  | 77                               |
| Caundle Purse   | 46                        | -                        | 46                                  | 161                              |
| Chetnole        | 68                        | 3                        | 65                                  | 238                              |
| Clifton Maybank | 9                         | -                        | 9                                   | 31                               |
| Folke           | 107                       | 4                        | 103                                 | 374                              |
| Goathill        | 10                        | -                        | 10                                  | 35                               |
| Haydon          | 19                        | 5                        | 14                                  | 66                               |
| Hermitage       | 20                        | -                        | 20                                  | 70                               |
| Hilfield        | 11                        | -                        | 11                                  | 38                               |
| Holnest         | 48                        | -                        | 48                                  | 168                              |
| Holwell         | 97                        | 4                        | 93                                  | 339                              |
| Leigh           | 115                       | 4                        | 111                                 | 402                              |
| Leweston        | 2                         | -                        | 2                                   | 126                              |
| Lillington      | 22                        | 1                        | 21                                  | 77                               |
| Longburton      | 82                        | 5                        | 77                                  | 287                              |
| Melbury Bubb    | 9                         | -                        | 9                                   | 31                               |
| Nether Compton  | 53                        | -                        | 53                                  | 185                              |
| North Wootton   | 8                         | 1                        | 7                                   | 28                               |
| Oborne          | 36                        | 2                        | 34                                  | 126                              |
| Over Compton    | 16                        | 2                        | 14                                  | 56                               |
| Poyntington     | 14                        | -                        | 14                                  | 49                               |
| Ryme Intrinseca | 40                        | -                        | 40                                  | 140                              |
| Sandford Orcas  | 52                        | 2                        | 50                                  | 182                              |
| Thornford       | 124                       | 4                        | 120                                 | 434                              |
| Trent           | 99                        | 4                        | 95                                  | 346                              |
| Yetminster      | 196                       | -                        | 196                                 | 686                              |
| <b>Totals</b>   | <b>1,624</b>              | <b>52</b>                | <b>1,572</b>                        | <b>5,797</b>                     |

### New Connections.

Trent village is now completely supplied, where possible, from the Council's mains. An increased number of agricultural connections were made, probably as a result of the effect of the dry summer on private supplies.

#### Number of new connections:-

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Domestic .....    | 88 |
| Agricultural..... | 40 |
| Other .....       | 24 |

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Trent. The number of house connections made to the new Trent sewerage system has been disappointingly low during the year, only nine houses and the school having been connected. The Estate, owning the bulk of the properties and operating only a small labour force, has concentrated on the changeover of water supplies. Now that this has been completed it is hoped that the provision of improved drainage and waterborne sanitation will proceed at an increased rate.

Bradford Abbas, Alweston and Thornford. Plans for completion of these sewerage schemes were well advanced at the end of the year and work is expected to commence early in 1960.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

House Refuse. (i) Collection. The monthly collection has been maintained.

(ii) Disposal. On the 6th January a Public Local Inquiry was held into the Council's proposal to acquire, by compulsory purchase, a site at Trent Barrow for use as a refuse tip. There was considerable local opposition and the Minister refused to confirm the order.

Alternative sites are again being considered and meanwhile the possibility of taking additional ground at the existing tip for controlled tipping by trenching and re-instatement with mechanical equipment is being explored.

Salvage. The value of salvage sold during the year was again reduced on the previous year - £112. 2s. 6d. against £133. 5s. 5d.

Cesspool Emptying. The contract for this work at the Council's housing sites has been continued and is operating satisfactorily.

### RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION

Polluted ditches in the more populous villages continue to be a major nuisance and will continue to be so until sewerage schemes can be proceeded with.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937. (Nil figures are omitted)

|   | <u>No. of premises<br/>on Register.</u> | <u>Inspections.</u> |
|---|---|---------------------|
| (i) Factories in which Section 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities                    | 2                                       | 4                   |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority              | 27                                      | 15                  |
| Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) | -                                       | -                   |
|   | 29                                      | 19                  |

No. of cases in which defects were:-

|                              | <u>Found</u> | <u>Remedied</u> |
|------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Sanitary Conveniences        |              |                 |
| (i) Insufficient             | Nil          | Nil             |
| (ii) Unsuitable or defective | 2            | 2               |
|                              | 2            | 2               |

There was no case referred by H.M. Inspector of Factories.

No. of Outworkers = Nil.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

SWIMMING BATHS.

There is one open-air bath at a private establishment where members of the public have occasional access by invitation.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES.

Seventeen licences were issued during the year for the use of caravans, a further increase of one over the preceding year.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

No action was called for during the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee, of which Sherborne Rural District Council is one of the six constituent authorities, continued to carry out the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The work of the Committee continued to function smoothly and expeditiously.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

There are no premises subject to registration under the above-mentioned Act, within the district.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

No premises in the district are licensed under this Act.

SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS)

Twenty-seven visits and inspections were made at schools in respect of sanitation, meals facilities and water supplies.

I am glad to report that the sanitary improvements projected for Holwell School were completed during the year. Trent School was connected to the public sewer so that Nether Compton is now the only school in the district that is without water-borne sanitation.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951 - Section 47.

No action was called for or taken under these Acts during the year for the compulsory removal of an old person, requiring care and attention, to a hospital or home.

HOUSING

Total No. of houses in the district 1,955

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

No. of houses inspected during the year 37

No. of inspections made 78

No. of informal notices served -

No. of informal notices complied with -

No. of statutory notices served 1

No. of statutory notices complied with 4

No. of houses reported under Section 16  
of the Housing Act, 1957 9

Action taken by the Local Authority in  
respect of such houses -

Demolition Orders made 6

Undertakings accepted for -

Closure Nil

Reconditioning Nil

Other Action (Demolition) Nil

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during the year Nil

## HOUSING (Continued)

### Slum Clearance

A limited amount of progress continued to be made in connection with your slum clearance proposals in so far as nine unfit dwellings were represented to you under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. Demolition orders were made in respect to six of these properties.

### Overcrowding.

No cases of statutory overcrowding were found during the year.

### Houses Known to be Let in Lodgings.

No houses are known to be let in lodgings.

### Improvement Grants (Housing Act, 1949 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954).

Twenty-three applications (compared with nineteen in 1958) were received during the year for discretionary grants under the above-mentioned Act, two applications were received in respect to standard grants.

### Provision of New Houses and Re-Housing.

Fifteen new houses were built by private enterprise during the year but not one by the District Council although there is undoubtedly a need for further housing accommodation, particularly for old people, as reflected by the cases coming to the notice of the Selection Committee.

Early in 1960 a decision was reached to erect a number of houses especially adapted for the needs of old people and it is hoped that this will be followed by additional houses for the general housing need.

Eighty-five applicants were on the Council house waiting list at the end of the year, of which sixty-two were resident in the district.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

### 1. Milk.

#### Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| No. of 'dealers' subject to registration by the District Council | 2 |
| No. of 'dairies' in the District subject to registration         | 3 |
| No. of 'distributors' subject to registration                    | 6 |

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES (Continued)

### 1. Milk.

#### Samples

No. of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination during the year -

|                    | <u>Passed</u> | <u>Failed</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| T.T. (Pasteurised) | 102           | -             | 102          |
| Tuberculin Tested  | 51            | 12            | 63           |
| Pasteurised        | 105           | -             | 105          |

It will be noted that one fifth of the samples of unpasteurised tuberculin tested milk did not reach the required standard on examination, whilst all the samples of pasteurised milk did so. Pasteurised milk is undoubtedly the safest milk and the universal pasteurisation of all milk sold for human consumption is urgently required in the interests of public health.

#### Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949 - Regulation 20.

No formal action was called for or taken during the year.

### 2. Other Food Premises.

The number of food premises in the area, by type of business:-

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Hotels, restaurants, cafes and<br>boarding houses      | 18 |
| Canteens - School and workplace                        | 2  |
| Confectioners  | 5  |
| Meat and Fish  | 1  |
| Grocers  | -  |
| Mixed Stores   | 17 |
| Boarding Schools and other residential<br>institutions | 2  |
| Food Factories   | 1  |
| Stalls (Mobile shops)                                  | 2  |
| Other (Slaughterhouses)                                | 2  |

No. of above subject to registration under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 in respect of -

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Ice-cream                 | 20  |
| Sausages & Prepared Meats | 1   |
| Fish and Chips            | Nil |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| No. of samples of ice-cream submitted for Methylene Blue<br>Test | Nil |
| No. of above premises inspected during the year                  | 16  |
| No. of inspections carried out                                   | 27  |

#### Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment etc) Regulations, 1947 - 1952.

There are no manufacturers of ice-cream in the District.

Byelaws in respect of Handling and Wrapping of Food etc.

These byelaws are operative within the district.

Food Inspection

Slaughterhouses There are two private licensed slaughterhouses in the district. One is used in connection with local retail shops, the other is very occasionally used for the slaughtering of pigs.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned

|   | Cattle<br>Excluding<br>Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep<br>and<br>Lambs | Pigs   |
|---|-----------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|--------|
| Number killed   | 111                         | -    | -      | 283                   | 35     |
| Number Inspected  | 111                         | -    | -      | 283                   | 35     |
| <u>All diseases except</u><br><u>Tuberculosis &amp;</u><br><u>Cysticerci:</u>                   |                             |      |        |                       |        |
| Whole carcases condemned  | 1                           | -    | -      | -                     | 3      |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned  | 8                           | -    | -      | 5                     | 2      |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci | 8.10%                       | -    | -      | 1.76%                 | 14.28% |
| <u>Tuberculosis only:</u>   |                             |      |        |                       |        |
| Whole carcases condemned  | -                           | -    | -      | -                     | -      |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned  | -                           | -    | -      | -                     | -      |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis                                   | -                           | -    | -      | -                     | -      |
| <u>Cysticercosis:</u>   |                             |      |        |                       |        |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned  | -                           | -    | -      | -                     | -      |
| Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration  | -                           | -    | -      | -                     | -      |
| Generalised and totally condemned   | -                           | -    | -      | -                     | -      |

### Disposal of Condemned Food

Condemned foodstuffs are disposed of by incineration except in the case of large quantities of meat or meat carcases when it is sent to a knackers yard.

### SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Total No. of inspections (under all headings) | 1,274 |
| Total No. of informal notices served          | 12    |
| Total No. of informal notices complied with   | 9     |
| Total No. of statutory notices served         | 12    |
| Total No. of statutory notices complied with  | 5     |
| No. of prosecutions                           | Nil   |

### E. RADIATION HAZARDS

During the year Circular 57/59 was issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the Radioactive Substances Bill was introduced before Parliament.

The Circular reviewed the measures taken at the present time by the several Government departments concerned to assess and control radiation hazards.

The monitoring for natural background radiation and from nuclear fall out does appear to be a matter better undertaken by the Central Government. It is however very important that the findings and interpretation of the findings, in readily understandable form should be made known to local Authorities and their officers if the confidence of the public is to be best maintained.

If the Radioactive Substances Bill is not materially changed in its passage through Parliament, local Authorities will be aware of the existence of premises within their district where radioactive material is in use and with regard to the authorised arrangement for the disposal of radioactive waste from such premises.

Although the control over the use and disposal of such materials will remain with the Central Government, the information given under the Bill to Local Authorities will be of some advantage in connection with their responsibility for the maintenance of a healthy environment.

### F. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

#### Other than Tuberculosis -

| <u>Disease</u>          | <u>Total Cases Notified</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Measles                 | 278                         |
| Acute Primary Pneumonia | 4                           |
| Erysipelas              | 1                           |
| Scarlet Fever           | 2                           |

#### Tuberculosis -

| <u>New Cases Notified</u> |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| <u>Respiratory</u>        | <u>Non-Respiratory</u> |
| 4                         | Nil                    |

#### Food Poisoning -

No cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON

Medical Officer of Health.





